

ROUND/CANON WORK

Develop harmony pieces over time, even years. Continually address tuning, phrasing and tone.

Learn song>Use as a solo/ensemble piece>Divide singers and have each group sing one line of the song through the song, switching lines each time (I call this *tandem* singing)>Sing as an ostinato piece>Sing as a round.

Beginning rounds should be very simple and with no big leaps. Expect pitch and meter problems in beginning round/canon work.

Focus on the line that is built on the third of the chord. Consider using this line for the ostinato.

Techniques:

- *Build A Circle*: Begin with singing in a large circle>Teacher moves to stand in front of a strong singer, leading the singer to join teacher part>Teacher and that student move to another student, leading that student to join their part>Continue building circle inside of a circle>Teacher leaves that circle and starts another circle>Process continues until large circle has been divided into number of parts (small circles) needed.
- *Circle Up*: Singers are divided into 3 or 4 circles. Singing in a circle helps singers to hold their part. I usually divide choir members first so that each circle has strong leaders and adjust the balance by moving singers around.

Strengthen parts:

- Teacher support.
- Audio recording support. Sometimes, I have one circle stand close to the speakers so that they can hear their part while I am helping another section.
- Have sections stand with their shoulders slightly slanted away from other sections.
- Exaggerate diction.
- Sing with strong phrasing.
- Add choreography, if appropriate.

Round killers are lack of familiarity, meter instability, flat tone and poor tuning.

MY FAVORITE ROUNDS/CANONS

A Ram Sam Sam
Ah, Poor Bird
Are You Sleeping (we sing in four languages)
Brontasaurus (<i>Wee Sing Dinosaurs</i> - perfect for 1 st and 2 nd)
Clocks (<i>Classical Cannons</i> - Molnar)
Down By The Station
For Thy Gracious Blessings
Ghost of John
I Love The Mountains (love the choreography with this one)
If You Dance (<i>150 Rounds For Singing and Teaching</i>)
Kookaburra
Laughing, Singing
Let Music Surround You (<i>Boogie, Blues and Ballads</i> by Addicott)
Let's Put the Rooster In The Stew (<i>150 Rounds For Singing and Teaching</i>)
Make New Friends
Music Alone Shall Live (love the <i>Music K-8</i> arrangement)
Oh, How Lovely Is The Evening
Old Abram Brown
Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Scotland's Burning
Sing Together
Sweetly Sings the Donkey
Three Blind Mice
Where Is John? (<i>150 Rounds For Singing and Teaching</i>)
White Coral Bells
Zum Gali-Gali-Gali